

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 20 through 24, 29 through 32, and 42 through 52 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please add Claims 53 through 61 as follows:

1 - 52. (Cancelled)

53. (New) An apparatus comprising:

a protocol stack comprising an application layer, a network layer, and a physical layer,

wherein said physical layer comprises a hardware interface between said apparatus and a network,

wherein network-level tunnelling of a packet from said network layer, the tunnelling creating a packet having a plurality of network layer source addresses and a plurality of network layer destination addresses, takes place in said apparatus below said network layer but above said physical layer.

54. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 53, wherein said network layer is an IP layer, the plurality of network layer source addresses are a respectively plurality of IP source addresses, the plurality of network layer destination addresses are a respectively plurality of IP destination addresses, the network-level tunnelling is effected by a driver operating in said apparatus below said IP layer but above said

physical layer, the driver presents to said IP layer an ethernet driver interface, and the driver removes an ethernet header and an ethernet checksum from a packet received from said IP layer.

55. (New) An apparatus comprising:
an application that uses HTTP;
a TCP/IP stack for use with said application, said TCP/IP stack comprising a TCP layer and an IP layer; and
a hardware interface between said apparatus and a network,
wherein a driver operating below said IP layer and above said hardware layer comprises means for performing IP-within-IP encapsulation of an IP packet received by said driver from said IP layer.

56. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 55, wherein the IP packet received by said driver from said IP layer is received within an ethernet packet, and the driver presents to said IP layer an ethernet driver interface.

57. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 56, wherein the ethernet packet comprises an ethernet header and the IP packet, and
wherein said means for performing IP-within-IP encapsulation comprises means for removing the ethernet header, and means for adding an IP

header to result in a packet that comprises both (a) an original IP header of the IP packet and (b) the added IP header.

58. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 57, wherein when the ethernet header is removed, an ethernet checksum is also removed.

59. (New) A method comprising:
performing IP tunnelling when sending an HTTP request from a web browser on a first apparatus on a network to a second apparatus on the network,
wherein the IP tunnelling is performed by a driver operating in the first apparatus below an IP layer of the first apparatus and above a hardware network interface of the first apparatus.

60. (New) A method according to Claim 59, wherein a tunnelled IP packet generated by the driver of the first apparatus is received by a gateway apparatus on the network and is un-tunnelled, whereby an original IP packet generated by a TCP/IP stack of the first apparatus and containing the HTTP request is obtained for forwarding to the second apparatus.

61. (New) A method according to Claim 60, wherein the driver presents to the IP layer an ethernet driver interface.